

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 CAIRO 08333 211537Z

44

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAB-01 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10 /068 W  
----- 016649

R 211200Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6020  
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 8333

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, EG

SUBJECT: SIB'I APPOINTED MINISTER OF CULTURE AND INFORMATION

1. AHRAH REPORTS AUGUST 17 THAT PRES SADAT HAS ISSUED REPUBLICAN DECREE GIVING MINCULTURE YUSUF AL-SIBA'I THE ADDITIONAL PROTFOLIO OF MINISTER OF INFORMATION. FORMER MININFO KAMAL ABU AL-MAGD IS TO BE DIRECTOR OF IDEOLOGY AND DISSEMINATION AT ARAB SOCIALIST UNION.

2. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL: ABU AL-MAGD HAS BEEN UNABLE EXERT HIS AUTHORITY OVER DIFFUSE MINISTRY BUREAUCRACY. MANY MIDDLE AND TOP LEVEL EMPLOYEES OPENLY RETAIN LOYALTY TO OTHER EGYPTIAN NOTABLES, INCLUDING FORMER MININFO HATIM. WE UNDERSTAND, HOWEVER, THAT PROXIMATE CAUSE OF ABU AL-MAGD'S UNCEREMONIOS DOWNFALL WAS PRESIDENT SADAT'S WRATH OVER HIS FAILURE TO PREVENT VOICE OF PALESTINE (VOP) BROADCAST TWO DAYS AGO WHIWNTLY ATTACKED US PEACE EFFORTS AND EGYPTIAN INTENTION AGREE TO SECOND-STAGE DISENGAGEMENT.

3. COMMENT: EMBASSY BELIEVES SIBA'TS APPOINTMENT ONLY  
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PAGE 02 CAIRO 08333 211537Z

TEMPORARY, SINCE HE HARDLY QUALIFIED TO ADMINISTER KIND OF

PROFESSIONAL EXTERNAL AND INTERNAL INFORMATION PROGRAM WHOSE IMPORTANCE SADAT HAS COME TO APPRECIATE, ESPECIALLY SINCE OCTOBER WAR. UNTIL PERMANENT CHOICE IS MADE, HOWEVER, SIBA'I PERFECTLY CAPABLE OF GETTING TOUGH IF NECESSARY WITH VOP.

4. IF, AS BEIRUT PRESS REPORTS SEEM TO INDICATE, PLO HAS DECIDED OPPOSE SINAI DISENGAGEMENT, WE BELIEVE IT POSSIBLE THAT PLO COMMAND COULD BE SEEKING TO PROVOKE GOE INTO CURTAILING VOP ACTIVITIES IN EGYPT, THUS PROVIDING MORE AMMUNITION FOR CHARGE OF REJECTIONSISTS THAT GOE IS BETRAYING PALESTINIAN CAUSE BY ACCEPTING NEW INTERIM AGREEMENT. DEPT WILL RECALL NASSER CLOSED VOP HERE FOR FEW MONTHS IN 1969 WHEN PLO PERSISTENTLY ATTACKED EGYPTIAN ACCEPTANCE OF ROGER'S PLAN. END CONFIDENTIAL EILTS

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS, MINISTER COUNSELORS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 21 AUG 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** CunninFX  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Page Count:** 2  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** CunninFX  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 04 AUG 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <04 AUG 2003 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <28 NOV 2003 by CunninFX>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
06 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** SIB'I APPOINTED MINISTER OF CULTURE AND INFORMATION  
**TAGS:** PFOR, PINT, EG, (AL-SIBA'I, YUSUF)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006